GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1985
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2016
Amendment in Electricity Act
Gaikwad Dr. Sunil Baliram;Gupta Shri Sudheer;Kirtikar Shri Gajanan Chandrakant;Mahato Shri Bidyut Baran;Radhakrishnan Shri T.;S.R. Shri Vijay Kumar;Singh Shri Kunwar Haribansh

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to bring changes in Electricity Act, if so, the aims and objectives behind this move;

(b) whether the Government has sent the draft of Electricity Act to the State Governments, if so, the response of the State Governments thereto, State/UT-wise;

(c) the time by which the said act is likely to come into force; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to make compulsory for the Electricity Distribution companies to purchase some quantity of renewable energy from renewable energy producers?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR POWER,
COAL, NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MINES

(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) : Yes, Madam. Based on suggestions received from various stakeholders, Ministry of Power (MOP), Government of India has proposed amendments in the Electricity Act, 2003.

The proposed amendments, inter-alia, envisage competition in retail supply of electricity, strict enforcement of Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPO) and stricter requirements for Grid Safety and Security.

(b) : Yes, Madam. The proposed amendments in the Electricity Act, 2003 were initially uploaded on the website of MOP on 17th October, 2013 and also circulated to all stakeholders, including State Governments/UTs for their comments. The revised proposals for amendment in Electricity Act, 2003 were again forwarded to State Governments/UTs on 15th September, 2015 for seeking their comments. Comments have since been received from various State Governments on amendment proposals. They mainly relate to provisions of separation of distribution and supply functions, penalty provisions for non-compliance of RPOs by the Captive generating plants and Open access consumers, provisions related to theft and unauthorized use of electricity etc.

(c) : The Act will come into force after passage of the Electricity (Amendment) Bill by both the Houses of Parliament and assent of the Hon'ble President of India.

(d) : As per section 86(1)(e) of the Electricity Act, 2003, distribution companies are already required to procure certain percentage of electricity from renewable sources of energy.

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